

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An aqueous ink composition for ink jet  
comprising:

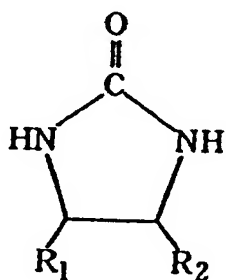
(i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a  
5 cationic hydrophilic group,

(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic  
hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via  
another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle  
dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic  
10 group;

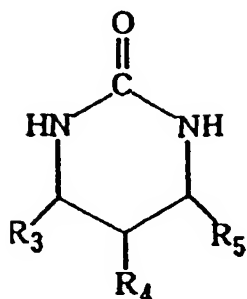
(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting  
of a compound represented by the following general  
formula (I), a compound represented by the following  
15 general formula (II), and mixtures thereof:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are independently each a hydrogen atom,  $\text{CH}_3$  or  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ .

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2. The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the pigment of (ii) is a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group.

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3. The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant of (i) is a pigment.

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4. The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant of (i) and the pigment of (ii) are carbon black.

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5. The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by said general formula (I) is contained in an amount of 5 to 15 wt% based on the total weight of the aqueous ink.

6. The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein said polyhydric alcohol is at least one selected from the group consisting of glycerin, propylene glycol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,2,6-hexanetriol, and  
5 hexylene glycol, and the amount of said polyhydric alcohol is in a range of 0.1 to 10 wt%.

7. The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the ink composition is used for ink jet  
10 recording.

8. An ink cartridge comprising an ink container containing an aqueous ink composition for ink jet comprising:

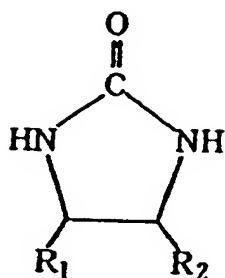
15 (i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle,  
20 dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

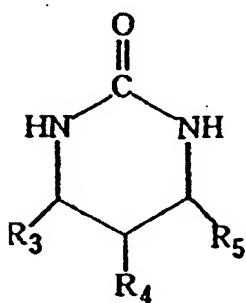
(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general  
25 formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



15            wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are independently each a hydrogen atom,  $\text{CH}_3$  or  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ .

20            9. A recording unit comprising an ink container containing an aqueous ink composition for ink jet comprising:

             (i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

             (ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle

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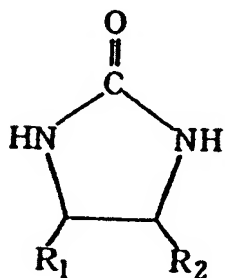
dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

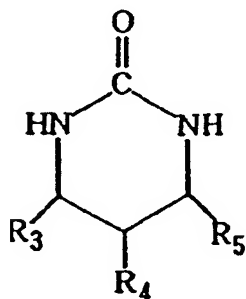
(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof; and

an ink jet head for ejecting the ink:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are independently each a hydrogen atom,  $\text{CH}_3$  or  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ .

10. An ink jet recording apparatus comprising an

ink container containing an aqueous ink composition for ink jet comprising:

(i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

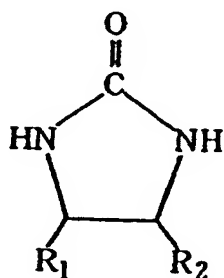
(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

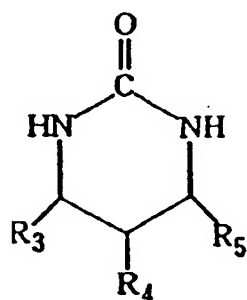
(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof; and

an ink jet head for ejecting the ink:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are independently each a hydrogen atom,  $CH_3$  or  $C_2H_5$ .

11. An ink jet recording method comprising a step of applying an aqueous ink composition for ink jet to a recording material by an ink-jet process, said aqueous ink composition comprising:

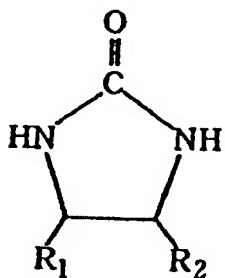
(i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

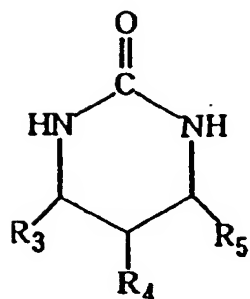
(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are independently each a hydrogen atom,  $\text{CH}_3$  or  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ .

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12. The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,2,6-hexanetriol, and hexylene glycol.